

Penalty on Nixon Tax Reported

Washington

The \$432,787.13 owed in back taxes by President Nixon included a negligence penalty amounting to more than \$13,000, the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry was told yesterday.

For more than two months, the White House and the Internal Revenue Service have said there was no finding of fraud in the President's tax returns for 1969-72, but they refused to discuss a possible penalty for negligence.

Representative Joseph J. Maraziti (Rep-N.J.) disclosed the confidential information after emerging from a closed hearing of the committee, and it was confirmed later by the committee's special counsel, John M. Doar.

In addition, officials of the impeachment inquiry said that the President has not paid any of his tax deficiency for 1969 and has given no official indication that he would ever do so.

The statute of limitations has expired, and Mr. Nixon cannot be required to pay back taxes for that year. But the White House announced last April that the President felt an obligation to pay all that he ever owed and would pay the 1969 deficiency.

Yesterday, a spokesman in the White House press office said, "The President is paying his taxes on schedule. The President intends to pay the 1969 taxes and will pay them."

A White House official said that the President had already paid all the taxes, interest and penalties he was assessed, except for the 1969 debt.

A major error found by the IRS in the President's

tax returns was a \$576,000 deduction for a gift of his pre presidential papers to the National Archives.

The Watergate special prosecutor's office reportedly is investigating the role of Mr. Nixon's tax attorney, Frank DeMarco of Los Angeles, in the alleged backdating of the deed for the papers.

After reviewing evidence on the President's personal finances and taxes yesterday, committee members were divided as to the seriousness of it.

Representative Charles E. Higgins (Rep-Calif.) said, "The President personally is like the driven snow on this."

Informed of Wiggins' comment, Representative Wil-

liam Hungate (Dem-Mo.) asked, "Did he say driven snow or driven slush?" Representative John Seiberling (Dem-Ohio) cracked that Wiggins "isn't leaking what he's been hearing."

Wiggins said he wouldn't comment on the culpability of those who helped prepare the President's return.

Representative Robert McClory (Rep-Ill.) said the evidence he heard "tends to vindicate the President." Representative Edward Mezvinsky (Dem-Iowa) said there were a lot of unanswered questions about possible fraud. Doar said a tax expert will appear at today's hearing to clear up any questions.

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